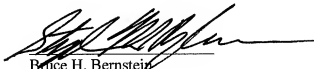


REMARKS

By the above amendment, claims 1-12 are currently pending. All claims have been amended to remove brackets and parentheses; and/or to render the claim language further in conformance with proper U.S. practice and idiomatic English. Claim 8 has been amended to remove multiple dependencies. Applicants note that no new matter has been added and that the amendments made herein have not been made for art-based reasons. Support for amended claim 8 can be found for example, in claims 3 and 6 from which claim 8 was previously dependent. Thus, the amendments should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

If there should be any questions, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tetsuo NAGANO et al



Bruce H. Bernstein  
Reg. No. 29,027

May 29, 2007  
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191

Stephen M. Roylance  
Reg. No. 31,296